The social pillar of sustainability

Thursday, December 20th, 2012, 9:30
Arison – Lauder Building Lobby, IDC Herzliya

"Sustainable development cannot be achieved by technological solutions, political regulation or financial instruments alone. Achieving sustainable development requires a change in the way we think and act... Only education and learning at all levels and in all social contexts can bring about this critical change”
(From Green Economies to Green Societies, UNESCO 2012).

Background:
The concept of sustainability is composed of three main pillars: environmental, economic and social. Yet, it is an ill-defined concept. Not only is it very inclusive and hard to narrow down, its meaning depends on context and user; it is dynamic in space and time and used differently by opposing ideologies. This vagueness and complexity are even more prominent when we come to examine the social pillar of sustainability, which unlike environmental sciences, environmental engineering or environmental economics is harder to monitor, measure and evaluate.

Our international conference concentrates on that pillar - the social pillar - and brings various disciplinary perspectives on the topic. Speakers and panelist will try to tackle questions such as: what is, or should be, included under the social pillar of sustainability? How should these be translated into various practices and policies? How should cultural and justice parameters be incorporated into policy and practice? Who should educate for social sustainability? What would be effective ways to educate various audiences – and in particular professionals and higher education audience - for social sustainability?

Schedule:
9:30 Greetings
Prof. Moti Shechter, Dean, School of Sustainability Founded by Israel Corp., ICL & ORL, IDC Herzliya
Chair holder: UNESCO Chair for Sustainability

Opening remarks:
Att. Alona Sheffer-Karos, Director General, The Ministry of Environmental Protection
"Sustainability and the economy: strategies for green growth"

Mr. Alexander Leicht, UNESCO
"Education for Sustainable Development – towards 2014 and beyond"

Guest speaker:
Prof. Jyoti Hosagrahar, Columbia University, New York and Srishti School of Art, Design, and Technology, Bangalore, India
"Culture and Sustainable Development: South Asian Perspectives"

11:00 Coffee break

11:15 Panel discussion I: The challenge of translating and incorporating social sustainability aspects into policy - The Israeli context
Moderator: Dr. Yael Parag, School of Sustainability Founded by Israel Corp., ICL & ORL, IDC Herzliya
Prof. Arza Churchman, School of Sustainability Founded by Israel Corp., ICL & ORL, IDC Herzliya
Prof. Dan Rabinovich, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University
Ms. Eliraz Sasi, Social aspects in planning and building, The Ministry of Social Affairs and Services

12:30 Lunch break

13:30 Guest speakers:
Prof. Li Fengting, Tongji University Shanghai, China
Chair holder: UNESCO chair in Education for Sustainable Development
"Better University, Better Society - Higher Education for a Sustainable Future"

Prof. Arjen Wals, Wageningen University, Netherlands
Chair holder: UNESCO Chair in Social Learning and Sustainable Development
"Fifty Shades of Green - why the Green Economy cannot be 'business as usual' and ESD cannot be 'education as usual’"

Prof. Gerard Michelsen, University of Lucneburg, Germany
Chair holder: UNESCO Chair in Higher Education for Sustainable Development
"A new teaching concept: Science bears responsibility"

15:00 Coffee break

15:20 Greetings
Prof. Rafi Mechnick, Provost, IDC Herzliya

15:30 Panel discussion II: How to educate for sustainability? How should social sustainability be incorporated into the education system?
Moderator: Dr. Eric Zimmermann, Director of Research and Academic Secretary, IDC Herzliya
Prof. Erika Weinthal, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University
Prof. Tali Tal, Department of Education in Technology and Science, The Technion
Dr. Robert Roach, Hakfar Hayarok school

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